# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMUNICATIONS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:171
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2001
INTERNET TELEPHONY
PRABHAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY

**Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:**

to the reply given to Starred Question No.320 on March 19, 2001 regarding Internet telephony and state:

(a) whether an expert group on legalisation of Internet telephony has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to submit its report?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR)

(a)& (b): The Government had constituted a Group to review and make recommendations regarding opening up of Internet Telephony. The recommendations of the group as approved are as follows:

1. Introduction of Internet Telephony may be considered after:

(i) Opening up of International Voice Telephony, and

(ii) Due process of consultation with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India(TRAI), and

(iii) Introduction of cost based tariff

2. All types of Internet Telephony viz. Personal Computer(PC) to PC, PC to Phone and Phone to Phone should remain illegal til Internet Telephony is permitted.

3. Any licensed Public Switched Telephone Network (PSTN)/Public Land Mobile Network(PLMN)/National Lon Distance(NLD)/International Long Distance(ILD) operator, may be permitted to offer Internet Telephony services as per licence conditions of the respective services.

4. The Quality of Service may be defined based on International standard/experience.

5. Internet Service Providers(ISPs) should not be permitted to offer Internet telephony.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.